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GUATEMALA 663

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FROM: GUATEMALA CITY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 663, APRIL 15, 5 PM

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

ACTION DEPARTMENT 663, INFORMATION MEXICO CITY 44, MANAGUA 43, PANAMA CITY 42, SAN JOSE 64, SAN SALVADOR 57, TEGUCIGALPA 51

REF: DEPTEL 335.

SZULC STORY NOT ONLY FANTASTIC; IT'S FROM DREAMSVILLE. WILD AND WOOLY EVEN FOR GUATEMALA.

IT IS TRUE ENOUGH HERE MANY BELIEVED, PRETENDED TO BELIEVE, OR FOUND CONVENIENT TO PRETEND TO BELIEVE THAT YDIGORAS AIDED AREVALO ENTER COUNTRY. YDIGORAS HAD MADE PLAIN HE FELT BEST WAY DEAL WITH PROBLEM WAS LET AREVALO ENTER AND BEAT HIM IN ELECTION. MANY HERE BELIEVE THAT POSSIBLE YDIGORAS NOT ONLY WILLING FOR AREVALO RETURN BUT WELCOMED IT AND PERHAPS AIDED IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENTRY. RETURN TO YDIGORAS WOULD BE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE MOLESTED ONCE AREVALO SHOULD BECOME PRESIDENT; OR IF BY IN THIS WAY FORCING ELECTORATE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO EVILS (I.E., AREVALO OR ALEJOS) AND ALEJOS SHOULD WIN SO MUCH THE BETTER FROM YDIGORAS VIEW. NO ONE HERE HAS EVER THOUGHT YDIGORAS TRYING FIND WAY BEAT ALEJOS SINCE LATTER ACTUALLY DEPENDENT ON FORMER.

FOR PERALTA TO HAVE CONNIVED IN ENTRY OF AREVALO IS ENTIRELY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH EVERYTHING WE KNOW OF HIM AND HIS PERSONALITY. PERALTA IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST I BELIEVE. I FIND INCREDIBLE IDEA HE MADE ANY DEAL WITH AREVALO. PERALTA HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN LIVING IN HOUSE OWNED BY AND LEASED FROM RAMIRO SAMAYOA, OPPORTUNISTIC MOVIE TYCOON, CONFIDANT OF YDIGORAS AND SUPPORTER OF AREVALO. SAMOYOA NOT REGARDED HERE AS MAN OF PRINCIPLE. HE OWNS NUMBER OF HOUSES WHICH ARE RENTED INCLUDING ONE RENTED EMBASSY ARMY ATTACHE AND ANOTHER TO USIS OFFICER BUT THIS HARDLY EVIDENCE POLITICAL CONNECTION. NOR DO I BELIEVE IT CREDIBLE THAT

(2)

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO.		ACTION TAKEN	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL		DATE OF ACTION	4/16/63
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GPO 930 500

PERALTA AND AREVALO MET ON MARCH 29 OR 30 OR ANY OTHER DATE RECENTLY EITHER IN HOUSE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS OR ELSEWHERE. PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS PRIOR LAST CHANGE (MARCH 1) VERY STAUNCH YDIGORISTA AND RIGHT-WINGER; PRESENT PRESIDENT [redacted] EXTREMELY RIGHT AND ANTI-COMMUNIST IN POLITICAL VIEWS; IDEA OF EITHER BEING FOR AREVALO IS NONSENSE. B,E

WE HAVE BEEN TRYING RUN DOWN STORY MEX MILITARY ATTACHE WHO IS RELATIVELY RECENT ARRIVAL AND HAS ONE STAR BUT HAVE NOTHING LOCAL TO SUPPORT STORY GIVEN TO COLLINS BY SOMOZA; PERHAPS MEXICO MIGHT GET MORE INFO. I DO NOT DOUBT THAT AREVALO WAS ASSISTED BY SOME MEXICANS BOTH TO ENTER AND LEAVE COUNTRY; WHETHER THESE WERE OFFICIAL MEXICANS WE HAVE NO IDEA.

AS FOR SOCIAL REFORMS DO NOT SEE ANY LOGIC IN IDEA OR FACTUAL BASIS FOR REPORT THAT PERALTA INTENDS SIT TIGHT ON SAME PENDING US RECOGNITION. FIRST ACT OF REGIME WAS TO ENUNCIATE LABOR CODE. WHY HE WOULD SEE ANY ADVANTAGE IN AWAITING US RECOGNITION I CANNOT IMAGINE. I DO NOT DOUBT THAT PERALTA WILL CONTINUE BE STRONGLY NATIONALISTIC. IS THIS INTENDED BE CRITICISM. FEW GUATEMALANS ARE NOT. [redacted] B,E

RECORD OF PERALTA CAREER SHOWS THAT HE SERVED AREVALO GOVERNMENT AS MILITARY ATTACHE IN COSTA RICA AND EL SALVADOR AND WAS IN LATTER POST AT TIME ARBENZ TOOK POWER. LATER ASSIGNED AS GUATEMALAN REPRESENTATIVE ON INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD WHERE HE SPENT BALANCE OF ARBENZ TERM. NOT RESIDENT IN GUATEMALA DURING ARBENZ REGIME. PERALTA BROTHER HAS TOLD US PERALTA PLANS LEAVE SAMOYOA HOUSE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT IT IS SINCERE INTENT OF PERALTA TO DO WHAT HE HAS PUBLICLY INDICATED IS HIS INTENT; CLEAN UP GOVERNMENT AND GET RID OF COMMUNISTS; AND THAT HE INTENDS IN END HAVE ELECTIONS IN WHICH AREVALO WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. AT SAME TIME IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO IGNORE POSSIBILITY THAT IN TIME FRUSTRATION COULD BRING PRESSURE ON PERALTA TO PERPETUATE HIMSELF IN POWER OR COME TO SOME ACCORD WITH OPPOSITION [redacted] B,E

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-3- 663, APRIL 15, 5 PM, FROM: GUATEMALA CITY

AGUIRRE HANNIFIN VISITED EMBASSY ABOUT WEEK AGO, HAVE NOT SEEN HENDRIX. NO HINT OF THIS PARTICULAR BRAINSTORM HAD REACHED US PRIOR REFTEL. SZULC IS EITHER KIDDING DEPARTMENT OR IS BEING BADLY KIDDED HIMSELF.
SCP-4.
BELL

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